

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, rooted in the culture of West Africa, the technique used to create sweetgrass baskets in the South Carolina Lowcountry has been passed from one generation to the next for more than three hundred years, giving this unique art form the distinction of being one of the oldest of African origin in our country; and

WHEREAS, first used in the Palmetto State for agricultural purposes, the baskets were adapted for household storage of food products and medical herbs; and

WHEREAS, in the early twentieth century, sweetgrass baskets became increasingly popular with tourists and other individuals outside the community, helping to establish sweetgrass basket making as a family business and stimulating the creativity of the artisans in order to compete in the growing market; and

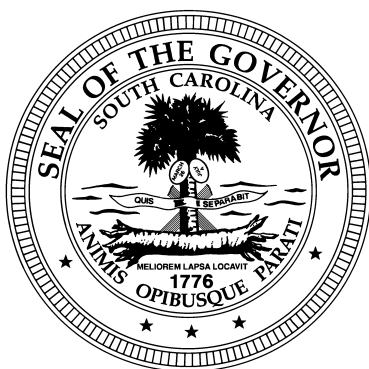
WHEREAS, primarily located in the Mt. Pleasant area, the original sweetgrass basket makers continue to craft beautifully designed, extraordinary products that appeal to consumers, collectors, and museums alike; and

WHEREAS, the sweetgrass basket is the "Official State Lowcountry Handcraft" of South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2 – 3, 2006, as

SWEETGRASS BASKET MAKERS WEEKEND

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the valuable role of this African art form in the rich history and heritage of the Palmetto State and to celebrate the artisans who remain dedicated to preserving and promoting this treasured tradition for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA